

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 109

By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International and applaud its members' commitment to public service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exemplary institutions that, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as estimable organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life of all people; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1905, Rotary International has proven itself to be one such laudable organization, worthy of recognition for its efforts to improve communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International has adopted the motto, "Service, Above Self" to represent its members' valiant commitment to helping those less fortunate than themselves; and

WHEREAS, Paul P. Harris, an attorney in Chicago, founded the Rotary Club of Chicago in 1905 to promote entrepreneurial friendliness; and

WHEREAS, as the Rotary Club grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of its members; in 1907 the Rotary Club of Chicago donated a horse to a preacher whose horse had died, leaving the preacher unable to visit his different churches and parishes; and

WHEREAS, a few weeks later the Rotary Club constructed Chicago's first public lavatory; with these kind acts of service, the Rotary Club of Chicago became the world's first service-club organization; and

WHEREAS, in 1908 the second Rotary Club was chartered in San Francisco and other charters soon followed in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York City, as Rotary's popularity spread across the United States; and

WHEREAS, by 1921, Rotary Clubs had been formed on six continents and the name Rotary International was adopted a year later; and

WHEREAS, in 1917, Rotarians created an endowment fund, The Rotary Foundation, for “doing good in the world”; today, contributions to The Rotary Foundation total more than 80 million dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, in 1985 Rotary International made a historic commitment to immunize all the children of the world against polio; since then, Rotary International has immunized more than one billion children worldwide and has contributed one-half billion dollars to polio immunization; and

WHEREAS, today Rotary International has 1.2 million members in 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries, and the service of these Rotarians serves as a testament to the virtues of benevolence and honor; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has a rich history of participation, service, and leadership in Rotary International; James Bomar of Shelbyville was president from 1979 – 1980 and James Lacy of Cookeville was president from 1998 – 1999; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2005 the members of Rotary International will celebrate the organization’s 100th anniversary of service and philanthropy toward those less fortunate than themselves; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of this great State should honor and recognize all those members of Rotary International who have improved the quality of life for Americans and all people around the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the 100th year anniversary of Rotary International and commend all those men and women who have valiantly served American society and people across the globe through this estimable institution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

